Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method of treating an inflammatory disorder in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of a native sequence STIgMA polypeptide.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said native sequence STIgMA polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 32, 33, and 34.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said antagonist is an isolated antibody.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the antibody has non-human complementarity determining region (CDR) residues and contains human framework region (FR) residues.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the antibody is a composition in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4 wherein said antagonist is an immunoadhesin.

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein said immunoadhesin comprises a STIgMA extracellular domain sequence fused to an immunoglobulin constant region sequence.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein said extracellular domain sequence is essentially free of transmembrane domain sequences.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein said immunoglobulin is an IgG.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 wherein said IgG is IgG1 or IgG3.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein the inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of: inflammatory bowel disease; systemic lupus erythematosus; rheumatoid arthritis; juvenile chronic arthritis; spondyloarthropathies; systemic sclerosis, for example, scleroderma; idiopathic inflammatory myopathies for example, dermatomyositis, polymyositis; Sjögren's syndrome; systemic vaculitis; sarcoidosis; autoimmune hemolytic anemia for example, immune pancytopenia, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria; autoimmune thrombocytopenia, for example, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, immune-mediated thrombocytopenia; thyroiditis, for example, Grave's disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, juvenile lymphocytic thyroiditis, atrophic thyroiditis; diabetes mellitus, immune-mediated renal disease, for example, glomerulonephritis, tubulointerstitial nephritis; demyelinating diseases of the central and peripheral nervous systems such as multiple sclerosis, idiopathic polyneuropathy; hepatobiliary diseases such as infectious hepatitis such as hepatitis A, B, C, D, E and other nonhepatotropic viruses; autoimmune chronic active hepatitis; primary biliary cirrhosis; granulomatous hepatitis; and sclerosing cholangitis; inflammatory and fibrotic lung diseases (*e.g.*, cystic fibrosis); gluten-sensitive enteropathy; Whipple's disease; autoimmune or immune-mediated skin diseases including bullous skin diseases, erythema multiforme and contact dermatitis, psoriasis; allergic diseases of the lung such as eosinophilic pneumonia, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and hypersensitivity pneumonitis, transplantation associated diseases including graft rejection and graft-versus host disease.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said inflammatory disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said mammal is human.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein said mammal is human.

16. (previously presented) A method of diagnosing an inflammatory disorder in a mammal, said method comprising detecting the level of expression of a gene encoding a STIgMA polypeptide (a) in a test sample of cells obtained from said mammal, and (b) in a control sample of known normal cells of the same cell type, wherein a higher level of expression of said gene in the test sample as compared to the control sample is indicative of the presence of an immune related disorder in the mammal from which the test tissue cells were obtained.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein said STIgMA polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 32, 33, and 34.

18. (previously presented) A method of diagnosing an inflammatory disorder in a mammal, said method comprising (a) contacting an anti-STIgMA antibody with a test sample of cells obtained from said mammal, and (b) detecting the formation of a complex between the antibody and STIgMA polypeptide in the test sample, wherein formation of said complex is indicative of the presence of an inflammatory disorder in said mammal.

19. (previously presented) An isolated antibody which specifically binds a STIgMA polypeptide.

20. (previously presented) The antibody of Claim 19 wherein said STIgMA polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 32, 33, and 34.

21. (previously presented) The antibody of Claim 20 which is a monoclonal antibody.

22. (previously presented) The antibody of Claim 21 which contains non-human complementarity determining region (CDR) residues and human framework region (FR) residues.

23. (previously presented) The antibody of Claim 22 which is labeled.

24. (previously presented) The antibody of Claim 23 which is immobilized on a solid support.

25. (previously presented) The antibody of Claim 20 which is an antibody fragment, a single-chain antibody, or an anti-idiotypic antibody.

26. (previously presented) A composition comprising the antibody of Claim 22 in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

27. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having at least about 80% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of amino acids 21 to 276 of SEQ ID NO: 32, or amino acids 21 to 182 of SEQ ID NO: 33, or amino acids 21 to 180 of SEQ ID NO: 34.

28. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 27 wherein said sequence identity is at least about 85%.

29. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 28 wherein said sequence identity is at least about 90%.

30. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 29 wherein said sequence identity is at least about 95%.

31. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 30 wherein said sequence identity is at least about 99%.

32. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 27.

33. (previously presented) A cell comprising the vector of Claim 32.

34. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of amino acids 21 to 399 of SEQ ID NO: 32, amino acids 21 to 305 of SEQ ID NO: 33, and amino acids 21 to 280 of SEQ ID NO: 34.

35. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 34.

36. (previously presented) A cell comprising the vector of Claim 35.

37. (previously presented) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 21 to 276 of SEQ ID NO: 32, amino acids 21 to 182 of SEQ ID NO: 33, and amino acids 21 to 180 of SEQ ID NO: 34.

38. (previously presented) An immunoadhesin comprising amino acids from 1 or about 21 to about 276 of SEQ ID NO: 32, or amino acids from 1 or about 21 to about 182 of SEQ ID NO: 33, or amino acids 1 or about 21 to about 180 of SEQ ID NO: 34, fused to an immunoglobulin constant region sequence.

39. (previously presented) The immunoadhesin of Claim 38 wherein said constant region sequence is a sequence of an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region